

Applic. No.: 09/688,463
Amdt. Dated August 26, 2004
Reply to Office action of June 25, 2004

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended). A modular printing machine system for printing on sheets, comprising:

a first printing machine of satellite construction type having a central first impression cylinder and at least four printing devices assigned thereto;

a second printing machine having a sheet delivery and, at least one zoneless metering device for uniformly metering at least one of ink and varnish, respectively, over a printing width, and a single applicator cylinder for contacting the sheets, said at least one zoneless metering device being associated with said single applicator cylinder; and

a coupling device for coupling said first printing machine and said second printing machine to one another for in-line operation thereof.

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Claim 2 (original). The modular printing machine system according to claim 1, wherein said metering device includes a screen roller and a doctor blade engaged therewith.

Claim 3 (original). The modular printing machine system according to claim 2, wherein said doctor blade is a chamber-type doctor blade.

Claim 4 (original). The modular printing machine system according to claim 1, wherein said metering device includes a trough, a dip roller disposable therein, and a metering roller operatively engaging said dip roller.

Claim 5 (cancelled).

Claim 6 (currently amended). The modular printing machine system according to claim 5 1, wherein said applicator cylinder is a printing form cylinder.

Claim 7 (original). The modular printing machine system according to claim 6, wherein a flexographic printing form for one of printing and varnishing, respectively, is clamped onto said applicator cylinder.

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Claim 8 (currently amended). The modular printing machine system according to claim 5 1, wherein said applicator cylinder is a blanket cylinder selected from the group thereof consisting of rubber-blanket and varnishing-blanket cylinders, respectively.

Claim 9 (previously presented). A modular printing machine system for printing on sheets, comprising:

a first printing machine of satellite construction type having a central first impression cylinder and at least four printing devices assigned thereto;

a second printing machine having a second impression cylinder and at least one zoneless metering device for uniformly metering at least one of ink and varnish, respectively, over a printing width, said second impression cylinder being assigned one unit of a numbering unit and an imprinting unit, respectively, with a rotatable shaft bearing one of at least one numbering and at least one imprinting stamp, respectively; and

a coupling device for coupling said first printing machine and said second printing machine to one another for in-line operation thereof.

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Claim 10 (original). The modular printing machine system according to claim 1, wherein at least one dryer is integrated into the printing machine system.

Claim 11 (original). The modular printing machine system according to claim 10, wherein said dryer is an excimer dryer.

Claims 12-13 (cancelled).

Claim 14 (currently amended). A modular printing machine system for printing on sheets, comprising:

a first printing machine of satellite construction type having a central first impression cylinder, at least four printing devices assigned thereto and a sheet feeder;

a second printing machine having a sheet delivery and, at least one zoneless metering device for uniformly metering at least one of ink and varnish, respectively, over a printing width, and a single applicator cylinder for contacting the sheets, said at least one zoneless metering device being associated with said single applicator cylinder; and

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a coupling device for coupling said first printing machine and
said second printing machine to one another for in-line
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